(3) Shri Sanjay Nirupam
(4) Shri Prem Chand Gupta
(5) Shri Prasanta Chatterjee".

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

REQUEST REGARDING PRIVATE MEMBER'S BUSINESS

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, no Member from South India is in this panel.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : From that side.

SHRI N. JOTHI : Here also, you should have.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: No, no, it is only ten and five.

SHRI N. JOTHI : Among the five, we can have one or two from South India. All of them are from North India only.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI (TAMIL NADU) : Sir, I have got a small submission. The entre House knows the ground reality. Our learned colleagues are not here for the Private Members' Business. Those who wanted to introduce the Bill, those who wanted to discuss the Bill, are not here. What I feel is that, his Private Members' Business may be taken up in the next Session. If the Chairman and the House so desires, the House may be adjourn *sine die*.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members the Monsoon Session of Rajya Sabha had begun on 21st July. Thanks to the kindness of God of rains, monsoon this year has been largely very satisfactory and has brought much needed relief and cheer especially to the drought-affected areas. It has also brightened the prospects of better economic growth.

In this Session, substantial Legislative Business was conducted; in all, 15 Bills were passed, including two constitution Amendment Bills. The Bills passed also included important ones like the CVC Bill, the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, the Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Bill and the NABARD (Amendment) Bill,. Enactment of these legislations would go a long way in imporving institutional and

policy framework leading to improved governance, thrust on development and augmenting welfare of SCs and STs.

Hon. Members, it has always been my effort to encourage purposeful discussion and constructive debate in this House on key issues of national importance. I am happy, during this Session also, the House had the occasion to discuss the performance of Panchayats and Municipalities as institutions of local self-government. Science and Technology Policy—2003 and issues relating to State finances. Important subject of Population Policy was also slated for discussion; however, it had to be postponed. I do hope this important subject definitely gets to be discussed in the next Session.

Hon. Members have always been alert and prompt in raising their concern over matters of urgent public importance. In this Session, discussions took place on important issues like implementation of conditional Access System *i.e.* CAS, and the role of the CBI and investigating agencies in Ayodhya cases. Also discussion on statement made by hon. Prime Minister on his visit to China and other places provided an opportunity for wider discussion on foreign policy issues. Statements were also made by the Minister of Defence on terrorists attack on army camp at Akhnoor in J&K, and by the Minister of Railways on railway accidents and safety measures. Hon. Members also very effectively used the mechanism of Calling Attention Motion and Special Mentions to raise urgent issues of Public importance such as the menance of spurious drugs, hazard to public health on account of mixing of urea and other chemicals in milk and inter-State river disputes. I think, from the view-point of focussing attention on issues of public importance, this Session has been of particular significance.

Hon. Members in the past have been complaining that replies to the Special Mentions were not being received from the Ministries in time. I am happy that during this Session, many Members mentioned to me that now replies to the Special Mentions have started coming. For this improvement, I would like to compliment the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. However, the situation is not yet fully satisfactory. I would urge the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs for sustained follow-up on pending cases. Hon. Members, I would like to share with you the progress in some other key areas as well. You would recall the good work done by the Ethics Committee. The recommendations on framing of the rules on the

subject have been approved by the Committee on Rules; these would now be placed for consideration of the House in the next session.

It would also be recalled that need was felt to have understanding as to what matters relating to States should, or should not, be raised in this House. A Group headed by hon. Shri Pranab Mukherjee was set up to consider this matter in depth. I am happy to report that the valuable recommendations made by the Group have been approved by the Rules committee. I do hope, with our agreement to act on these recommendations, we shall, in future overcome the occasions of differences in this vital matter.

I am also thankful to all the political parties and the Groups for their cooperation towards improved attendance of Members in the House. All of them have assured that at least 25 per cent of their Members would always remain present in the House. I thankfully acknowledge their valuable cooperation in this behalf.

Hon. Members, one last point. During the last week, I have missed in the House some of my good friends. Their absence has naturally caused me sorrow and anguish. Ever since I came to occupy this Chair, it has been my sincere and honest endeavour to always act in a fair and non-partisan manner. As you have seen, I have actively encouraged discussion and debate on issues of public importance irrespective of party positions. My effort has always been to facilitate solutions to the problems for the sake of smooth conduct of business in the House.

Let us not be districted from the path of pursuing our bigger goal with shared vision, commitment and responsibility, and always upholding and enhancing the dignity of the House. On my part, I, once again, assure the august House of my best endeavour in this direction. I would also request all of you to participate in the proceedings with the same zeal and enthusiasm as in the past.

Hon. Members, I acknowledge with gratitude the wholesome cooperation that I have been receiving from you. My sincere thanks are due to my colleague, hon. Deputy Chairman, as also to the Vice-Chairmen on the Panel. I am grateful to the hon. Leader of the House, hon. Leader of the Opposition and hon. Leaders of all the political parties and Groups. The hard work put up by the Secretariat staff also deserves our appreciation.

With these words, I wish you all the very best and also offer my warm greetings for all the festivals and joyous occasions that we may be celebrating till we meet here in the next session.

Thank you. Jai Hind.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA): Sir, perhaps this is a very rare occasion for me to be speaking twice from my seat! I hardly ever get a chance to speak from my seat. In the last session, when we were having a discussion on the Science Policy, I was very keen that you be in the Chair, Mr. Chairman, and I could participate as a Parliamentarian and as a student of science because that was a very, very good discussion we had. But, unfortunately, that could not happen. Today, just an hour ago, we have bid farewell to our very, very friendly and very participating colleagues. I was about to say, when Dr. Raja Ramanna mentioned it today, that I feel really anguished when I am in the Chair and I have to call the Nominated Members as "Others" and as the last. It really makes me so unhappy. I think that we should find some way in our Rules or in our Procedures so that those Members who have been nominated for their excellence by the hon. President of India should be able to give their opinions and their contribution at a cruicial point, not at a time when there is hardly anybody in the House or the galleries, for them to just get it recorded because their experience will enrich us. And I would sit with the Hon. Chairman who himself is very keen to improve the participation of the Members in this House and also to choose the subjects for discussion. It is not that the Hon. Chairman is interested only in a good participation of the Members, but he is equally interested that good subjects and the issues which are of concern to the majority of the people in the country are taken up and considered, and the opinion of the House in a true democratic manner, the varied opinions of all sections of the House be taken. It is sad that we do not have a majority of Members present in the House to bid farewell to our departing Members from this House. Somebody has pointed out that I am the lone voice from this side. But I am really the voice of all of you! Sir, this Session has seen many ups and downs as usual, but I only feel that Parliament is meant for participation. The word "Parliament" comes from French word "Parlego", "speak". If the Members do not speak on the floor of the House, where would they speak? If they do not speak voluntarily, it is sad for us; it is sad for our democracy. Our democracy is vibrant; it is participatory. If

should be interactive, it should be inclusive, and the views of many Members are necessary to make our democracy much more active and vibrant. We are proud to have one billion people. We represent a majority, in the world, of a democracy, which is not only a very established democracy, but has come of age in these 56 years of Independence. Sir, with anguish, I feel that we should speak in the House; the presence of Members should be more in the House. And, Sir, your efforts have been successful in getting at least 25 per cent Members of each political party, and, lately, we have seen that there has been no problem of quorum. But I would only like to say that I wish it were better. And today, we will be adjourning the House *sine die*. Till we meet again, for the next Session in winter, I hope, during the inter-Session period *i.e.* from the end of the Monsson Session to the start of the Winter Session, people will ponder over and think about keeping our democracy more alive, more active, more vibrant, more participatory, more interactive, and how we can find out the ways and means. Definitely, in a democracy, there can be different views, divergent views which we have been listening. Sir, this is the first time that we are adjourning the House without the Members of the Opposition parties!

Sir, we have been enriched by your guidance, and specially me. I thank my colleagues in the panel of Vice-Chairmen on my behalf, and also on your behalf. When we go back home, we would do whatever we like to do for the betterment of our constituencies and our people, but we should come back again in November with a resolve that we are going to keep this Parliament a real democracy, which all of us expect it to be, and which our forefathers who got us the freedom, expected it to be. I hope that all of you would enjoy all the festivals which are coming in the inter-Session period, and so would I. Let us hope that all of you will be happy and healthy to meet again in the House, or, may be, in the Committees. Take care, look after yourselves. I thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak.

वित्त मंत्री तथा सदन के नेता (श्री जसवंत सिंह): चेयरमैन साहब, दिन का तीसरा पहर चढ़ गया है और हमारे कुछ प्रिय सांसद विदा भी ले चुके हैं, विदायी भी पूरी हुई। पावस पर्व अब समाप्ति पर है। जैसा पावस ऋतु में होता है, बहुत सारे बादल गरजे भी, कुछ बरसे और कुछ नहीं बरसे। ये खेद की बात है, मन क्लान्त होता है कि हमारे कुछ मित्र आज उपस्थित नहीं हैं, अच्छा होता, वे उपस्थित होते। यह पंचायत, यह संसद चर्चा के लिए है, चर्चा के साथ-साथ विवाद खड़ा होगा,

विवाद का समाधान चर्चा से ही है। मैं आशा करता हूं कि जब शीत ऋतु में हम मिलेंगे तो निश्चित रूप से ये सब बातें बीती हुई बातें हो जाएंगी। सभापति जी, न मालूम कितने सांसद ध्यान से देखते है! जब यह संसद बनी तो मैं पता नहीं लगा पाया हूं कि किसने ये श्लोक, वेदों के वाक्य, ये किसने चुने मैं लोक सभा में कई बार रह चुका हूं। वहां हमने प्रयत्न किया कि पता तो करें कि किसने ये निकाले और बहुत ही चुन-चुन कर निकाले। सत्ता पक्ष के लोक सभा के रास्ते में लिखा है-''जहां सुमति तहं संपति नाना, जहां कुमति तहं बिपति निदाना'', और मैं सोचता हूं यह बहुत उपयुक्त है। निश्चित तौर से सुमति ही रही, यह मेरा विश्वास है। हम आपके बहुत आभारी हैं आपके नेतृत्व में इस सभा के संचालन के लिए। मैं सेक्रेटरी जनरल साहब का और सभी कर्मचारियों का बहुत आभारी हूं, कई बार हमारी चर्चा उनको बहुत तकलीफ देती है रात को बहुत देर तक चलती है और बिना किसी ऊद की खोई के उनको सज़ा भुगतनी पड़ती है। पर आज से उनको इससे राहत मिलेगी। मैं सभी नेतागणों का, जो उपस्थित हैं और जो नहीं हैं, उनका भी बहुत आभारी हूं। उनके बिना हाऊस कैसे चलेगा? वे अवश्य आएंगे। सुषमा जी के बिना तो यह संभव ही नहीं था। सुषमा जी का मैं आभारी हूं कि उनकी कुशलता, उनकी व्यावहारिकता, उनकी कार्य-प्रणाली के कारण यह सत्र अब समाप्ति की ओर है। हम आपको और सभी माननीय सदस्यों को बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देते हैं उत्सव आने वाले हैं। दशहरा भी है, दिवाली भी है, बीच में 31 तारीख को गणपति- पर्व है-हम तो अब आधा लाडू चोरियत से लेने वाले हैं, ''गणपति बप्पा मोरया''- खैर ये बड़े उत्सव हैं। सभापति जी, विश्व में ऐसा कोई देश नहीं है जिसमें इस प्रकार के उत्सव समाज सहजता से मनाता है। यह भी अपने आप में एक बड़ी चीज़ है। यह संसद और हमारा यहां मिलना भी एक प्रकार का उत्सव है, मैं आपका बहुत आभारी हूं, धन्यवाद।

(The National Song, "Vande Mataram", was then played.)

श्री सभापति: सदन की कार्यवाही अनिश्चितकाल के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned sine die at twenty-nine minutes past two of the clock.

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